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Letter dated 14 December 2010 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I wish to refer to my sixth report on the activities of the United Nations Office for West Africa, covering the period from 1 July to 31 December 2010 (S/2010/614). In my report, I recommend that the mandate of the Office be further renewed for a period of three years, from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2013.

I submit herewith, to the members of the Security Council, the draft mandate of the Office, elaborating its core functions, which are to be implemented in close collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States, the Mano River Union, and other regional and subregional partners (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

10-70723 (E) 281210

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Annex

Draft mandate of the United Nations Office for West Africa

The following objectives are to be implemented in close collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States, the Mano River Union and other regional and subregional partners:

Objective 1

Monitor political developments in West Africa, carry out good offices roles and special assignment on behalf of the Secretary-General and enhance subregional capacities for conflict prevention and mediation in countries of the subregion.

Function 1.1

Monitor and analyse the situation in West Africa, in particular emerging threats to peace, and provide the Secretary-General, the Security Council, regional and subregional organizations and national Governments with early warning and recommendations for preventive action.

Function 1.2

Perform good offices roles in countries of the subregion to prevent conflict and to consolidate peacebuilding efforts and political stability.

Function 1.3

Enhance subregional capacities for conflict prevention, conflict management, mediation, and good offices, including providing support to existing subregional mechanisms, in particular the Conflict Prevention Framework, of the Economic Community of West African States and the Community's Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security.

Function 1.4

Facilitate the implementation of the International Court of Justice ruling of 10 October 2002 on the land and maritime boundary dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria.

Objective 2

Enhance subregional capacities to address cross-border and cross-cutting threats to peace and security, in particular, election-related instability and challenges related to security sector reform, transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking and terrorism.

Function 2.1

Raise awareness and promote integrated subregional and cross-border responses to potential problems and emerging threats to peace, human security and stability in the subregion.

Function 2.2

Support the development of networks of practitioners and subregional frameworks and mechanisms to address challenges related to security sector reform, transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking and terrorism.

Function 2.3

Facilitate systematic and regular linkages in the work of the United Nations within the subregion to promote a coherent and synergetic United Nations approach to addressing the causes of instability and conflict in West Africa.

Objective 3

Promote good governance and respect for the rule of law, human rights and the mainstreaming of gender in conflict prevention and conflict management initiatives in West Africa.

Function 3.1

Facilitate the exchange of information and the sharing of best practices among national Governments, regional organizations, civil society and other entities for the promotion of good governance, respect for the rule of law and the improvement of electoral processes.

Function 3.2

Provide support for the enactment of resolutions and frameworks of action pertaining to the respect for human rights, and the mainstreaming of gender in conflict prevention and conflict management initiatives in West Africa.